

## Message Text

SECRET

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14

ACTION EA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 541

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

S E C R E T RANGOON 3167

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SNAR, TH, BM

SUBJECT: PROPOSED VISIT BY DEA REPRESENTATIVE TO RANGOON

1. EMBASSY RANGOON HAS OBTAINED THE CONCURRENCE OF THE GUB IN PERIODIC VISITS TO RANGOON BY REPRESENTATIVES OF DEA. RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS IN THE GUB APPEAR RECEPTIVE TO THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE DEA CONTACT MIGHT PROVE USEFUL TO THEM, PARTICULARLY AS IT MIGHT BEAR UPON THE BURMESE INTEREST IN ANTI-NARCOTICS DEVELOPMENTS IN THAILAND AND OTHER NEARBY AREAS. WE WOULD LIKE TO SCHEDULE THE FIRST OF SUCH PERIODIC DEA VISITS FOR THE LAST WEEK OF NOVEMBER OR THE FIRST WEEK OF DECEMBER. PRESIDENT NE WIN'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO PEKING WILL PREEMPT THE ATTENTION OF HIGHER LEVEL OFFICIALS UNTIL LATE NOVEMBER.

2. WE FEEL IT IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT THAT THIS FIRST VISIT BE OF SUFFICIENT RELEVANCE TO BURMESE CONCERNS TO ENGAGE THEIR SELF INTEREST IN CONTINUING THE CONTACT. ACCORDINGLY WE WOULD LIKE TO GIVE SOME PRELIMINARY THOUGHT TO TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION. WE WOULD WELCOME BANGKOK'S AND DEAS VIEWS ON THE FOLLOWING FOUR TOPICS:

A. THE BURMESE SHOULD BE INVITED TO DISCUSS AT LENGTH THE HISTORY OF THEIR ANTI-NARCOTICS PROGRAM AND TO DESCRIBE THEIR CURRENT STRATEGY AND TACTICS. THE BURMESE HAVE A STORY TO TELL AND WE BELIEVE THEY WILL BE ANXIOUS TO TELL IT TO THE DEA REP.

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THIS WILL ALSO BE BENEFICIAL TO US IN HELPING TO FILL IN SOME GAPS

IN OUR KNOWLEDGE REGARDING BURMESE LONGER RANGE STRATEGY.

B. A PRESENTATION BY THE DEA REP ON CURRENT TRENDS IN THE WORLD NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING SCENE WITH SPECIAL FOCUS ON SOUTHEAST ASIAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS. EMBASSY DISCUSSIONS WITH GUB OFFICIALS TEND TO FOCUS UNDERSTANDABLY ON OUR IMMEDIATE COMMON PROBLEMS. WE BELIEVE THE BURMESE WOULD BE RECEPTIVE TO A PRESENTATION OUTLINING WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE REST OF THE WORLD WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON SUCCESSES ACHIEVED IN OTHER AREAS IN THE ANTI-NARCOTICS WORK. A SEPARATE PRESENTATION, POSSIBLY TO INCLUDE DIAGRAMS AND CHARTS, SPECIFYING WHAT HAPPENS TO NARCOTICS AFTER THEY LEAVE BURMA, SHOULD ALSO BE OF INTEREST.

C. THE GUB OFFICIALS WOULD WELCOME A PRESENTATION ON THE THAI ANTI-NARCOTICS ORGANIZATIONS AND A DESCRIPTION OF THE THAI EFFORT. THE BURMESE ON OCCASION SUGGEST THAT THE PROBLEM OF INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICKING COULD BE CONSIDERABLY LESSENED IF THAI ANTI-NARCOTICS WORK WAS MORE EFFECTIVE. A DESCRIPTION OF THE THAI ANTI-NARCOTICS ORGANIZATIONS PLUS A CANDID ASSESSMENT OF THEIR SUCCESSES, FAILURES AND PROBLEMS COULD GO A LONG WAY TOWARD CLEARING UP ANY BURMESE MISUNDERSTANDINGS.

D. THE BURMESE ARE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN ANY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THEIR EFFORT. WE THEREFORE SUGGEST THE DEA REP, IF APPROPRIATE, BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE DEA ORGANIZATION AND ITS CAPABILITY TO PROVIDE SUPPORT, PARTICULARLY TECHNICAL, TO THE GUB ANTI-NARCOTICS PROGRAM. LIMITATIONS SHOULD ALSO BE FRANKLY DISCUSSED. WHILE SOME OF THIS PRESENTATION MIGHT DUPLICATE BRIEFINGS GIVEN COLONEL AUNG HTAY DURING HIS VISIT TO THE U.S. LAST SUMMER, THE RANGOON AUDIENCE SHOULD INCLUDE OFFICIALS WHO DID NOT MAKE THE U.S. VISIT AND WHO COULD THEREFORE PROFIT FROM A DIRECT DISCUSSION OF DEA ORGANIZATIONAL CAPABILITIES.

3. WHEN WE HAVE ADDRESSEE COMMENTS WE WOULD PROPOSE TO TELL THE BURMESE THAT THE ABOVE TOPICS ARE WHAT DEA WOULD LIKE TO TALK ABOUT, AND SOLICIT THEIR REACTION.

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